DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 404 173 SE 059 711

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TITLE	Cross Cultural Watershed Partners. Activities Manual.
INSTITUTION	GREEN (Global Rivers Environmental Education Network), Ann Arbor, MI.
REPORT NO	ISBN-0-7872-2390-5
PUB DATE	96
NOTE	150p.
AVAILABLE FROM	Kendall/Hunt Publishing, 4050 Westmark Drive, Dubuque, IA 52002; GREEN, 721 E. Huron Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48104.
PUB TYPE	Guides - Classroom Use - Teaching Guides (For Teacher) (052)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	Communication Skills; Cooperative Learning; Cultural Context; Elementary Secondary Education; *Environmental Education; *Global Approach; Learning Activities; *Multicultural Education; *Partnerships in Education; Student Projects; *Water Quality; Water Resources
IDENTIFIERS	Environmental Action; Environmental Awareness; *Watersheds

ABSTRACT

The Global Rivers Environmental Education Network (GREEN) has developed this manual of background information and activities for teachers and students who are interested in adding a cross cultural component to their watershed education program, or who wish to include an environmental context to their cross cultural experience. The instructional model laid out in this manual allows participants to share perspectives on their respective cultures and ideas on local water quality issues. This manual includes a progressive series of activities, the sum of which comprises a cross cultural watershed education program that proceeds in five stages, each outlined in a separate chapter. Chapter 1, "Understanding Culture", describes the initial stage of the program where students describe their own cultures and discuss how cultural values affect their viewpoints. From this perspective, students are then encouraged to compare their beliefs and values with those of other cultures. In chapter 2, "Development of a Cross Cultural Relationship", students learn to develop the attitudes, skills, and sensitivity they need to communicate effectively with their cross cultural partners. Chapter 3, "Understanding Your Watershed", contains activities in which students explore the history of their watershed, conduct biochemical assessments of river water quality, interpret the implications of their data and other findings, and begin to consider the range of environmental issues within their watershed. In chapter 4, "Understanding Water Quality", students describe their watersheds, identify any water quality problems and their causes, and learn to communicate this information with their partners. In chapter 5, "Cross Cultural Watershed Partnership", students are encouraged to collaborate with their partners and identify, assess, plan, and implement concrete strategies for improving water quality within each of the watersheds being studied. (JRH)